(b) The growht of DELs in an area is dependent upon demand which in turn depends upon economy, literacy rate, commercial actlvites and per capita income etc. Growth of telecom has been obsered in both urban as well as rural areas in the last few years. However, the rate of growth in urban areas in more as compared to the rural areas. The teledensity per hundred population in urban and rural areas of the last three years is given as under:

Year	Rural	Urban
1999-2000	0.68	7.64
2000-2001	0.93	10.16
2001-2002	1.21	12.22

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Improvement in telecom services is a continuous process. Following steps are taken in phased manner in the country including rural areas of Karnataka:

(i) Majority of connections are planned to be given through Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) network for which equipment is likely to be received during 2003-04.

(ii) Fault repair services are computerized and centralized at all short distance charging centres for round the clock booking of faults and their prompt rectification.

(iii) Upgradation of external plant.

(iv) Replacement of old paper core cables by jelly filled cables.

(v) Replacement of life expired telephone instruments.

Increase in unemployment

*152. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that unemployment has increased in the nineties *vis-a-vis* eighties;

(b) whether it is also a fact that decline in the employment growth pertaining to females has been higher than that of male during the same period; and

(c) what is the action plan to arrest the trend and what are the resources to implement the action Plan?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) As per the sample surveys carried out by National Sample Survey Organisation from time to time, estimated unemployment in the country in the year 1983,1987-88,1993-94 and 1999-2000 was of the order of 60 lakh, 90 lakh, 75 lakh and 90 lakh respectively.

(b) Estimated employment for the males and females in the year 1983,1987-88,1993-94 and 1999-2000, was as follows:

Year	Estimated employment (in millions)				Total
	Male	Percentage increase (simple average) per annum	Female	Percentage increase (simple average) per annum	
1983	200.13	—	102.19	—	302.75
1987-88	217.50	1.74	107.11	0.96	324.29
1993-94	252.76	2.70	121.63	2.26	374.45
1999-2000	273.98	1.40	123.04	0.19	397.00

(c) The approach to Tenth Plan focuses on providing gainful high quality employment to the additions to the labour forte and it is listed as one of the monitorable objectives for the 10th Plah and beyond. The growth strategy of 10th Plan would lay emphasis on rapid growth of those sectors which are likely to create high quality employment opportunities and deal with the policy constraints which discourage growth of employment. Particular attention would be paid to the policy environment influencing a wide range of economic activities which have a large employment potential.